Alliance Championship

Sheffield Eagles

V.

Huddersfield Giants

Don Valley Stadium
Wednesday 18th March 1998
Kick-Off 7.30pm

Alliance Officials

Alliance coach	Simon Worsnop
Assisted by	John Kear, Steve Deakin, Rick Rolt
Alliance Director	Richard Pepper
Team Doctor	Dr Janet Hornbuckle
Physiotherapist	Alan Tomlinson
Kit	The Academy Lads
Programme Editor	Vicki Fearnley
Ticketing, Programme Distribution and Stewarding	Kevin, Steve, Don

From The Management

St Helens may have ended the Eagles' 24 match unbeaten home run a fortnight ago, but the management are far from downhearted about that. So far, the Eagles two games have, true enough, resulted in defeat, but closer inspection reveals great cause for encouragement. Being promoted from Division One, an easy ride was never anticipated and our first opponents, Salford Reds and St Helens , both challenged Leeds for the title last year.

Yet Eagles out-performed Salford for long periods of the game and were unfortunate to be beaten only on goal kicks in the opening match a month ago, whilst, against Saints, although the margin was convincing, Eagles scored five tries to Saints' six and only the absence of a front line goal kicker made the margin look overwhelming.

At the end of the day, the Alliance competition is a coaching tool rather than an end in itself, and there is no doubt in the minds of the coaching staff that tough matches against the likes of Salford and St Helens is better for player development than big wins at York and Hunslet. They're more exciting for the spectator's too!!.

A fortnight ago, it was a pleasure to welcome an ex-Eagle, Nick Halafihi, as visiting coach. Tonight, we welcome another, Welsh International Harold Box. Harold played a couple of games for us in the early days, back in 1986. In those days, of course, the players were part time and went to their day time jobs the following day. Harold was unfortunate enough to play his two Eagles games on successive Wednesday nights at Whitehaven and Barrow, arriving home at two or three in the morning!. The Giants' Alliance Side spent 1997 in Division Two but, nevertheless,Will Have strengthened following their elevation to Superleague and we expect a stern test tonight.

Simon Speakin!

Tonights fixture welcomes Huddersfield to the Don Valley for the first time in a whole. Huddersfield have found the going tough in there first couple of game and like ourselves are probably taking a bit of time finding their feet in the top division.

Last week's game against St Helens provided us with the kind of encounter we need, with the Saint's fielding a top side including top stars such as Paul Davidson, Joey Hayes, Sean Long. Though the result went against us there were many positive points. Steve Molloy looked the type of "go forward" player we seem to be breeding at Sheffield and with some match practice he should be an awesome front rower.

AJ Okiwe (although unavailable tonight) showed the type of form that got him a first team run out last year and Lawrence Taylor slotted in to the standard well.

Of the youngsters Ben Cooper, Peter Rousso and Chris Thorman are all taking steps down the right Road. Peter seems to be benefiting from being a full time Apprentice player and has got much sharper and stronger since last year.

We have studied the video of the Saints game with a number of our players and hopefully we shall have ironed out a few weaknesses from last weak. Let's hope for a few competitive, entertaining game with the right result.

Alliance fixtures 1998

Feb	20	*Salford Reds (A)
Mar	5	St Helens (H)
	18	Huddersfield (H)
	26	Salford Reds (H)
Apr	1	HalifaxBlueSox(A)
	8	Hunslet Hawks (H)
	16	Widnes Vikings(A)
	23	Huddersfield (A)
May	8	Wigan Warriors(A)
	13	Salford Reds (H)
	20	Hunslet Hawks (A)
	27	Halifax BlueSox A)
Jun	4	Widnes Viking (H)
	11	Wigan Warriors(A)
	17	St Helens (A)
	24	Halifax Blue Sox H
Jul	1	Hunslet Hawks (A)
	30	Widnes Vikings(H)
Aug	5	Huddersfield H
	13	Wigan Warriors(H)
	19	St Helens (A)
	29	Challenge Cup 1st Round
Sept	5	Challenge Cup 2nd Round
	12	Challenge Cup Semi Final
	19	Challenge cup-final

*** All kick offs bar the First match of the season is at 7.30.The First match of the season kicks off at 8.00.**

A NEW FIXTURE

Eagles Alliance .V. Hunslet
7.30pm k.o @ Don Valley
Friday 20th March '98

Tonights Line ups

Sheffield Eagles		Huddersfield
Neil Law	1	Gavin Beaumont
Dale Cardoza	2	Gareth Gerrard
Wayne Flynn	3	Danny Fulleylove
Lynton Stott	4	Adrian Belle
Bright Sodje	5	Wayne Roper
Gareth Stephens	6	Ian Popplewell
Chris Thorman	7	Steve Booth
Steve Molloy	8	Lee Milner
Johnny Lawless	9	Ryan Hudson
Ricky Wright	10	Marcus Southwell
Ben Cooper	11	Paul Jackson
Chris Molyneux	12	Robert Ward
Marcus Vassillakopoulos	13	Adrian Moore
	subs	
Kevin Martin	14	Mark Moxon
Rob North	15	Andrew Burland
Curtis Thomas	16	Paul Rielly
Pete Rousso	17	Shane Byrne
	18	Chris Beevers
	19	Nick Douch

Referee: Mr.G.Robert
Touch Judges: Mr.S.Parker Mr.D.Griffiths

Forthcoming Fixtures

March 28th Challenge Cup Semi-final 2.45pm
Eagles V. Salford Reds @ HEADINGLEY

March 18th Alliance Championship
Eagles v. Salford Reds 7.30pm
@ Don Valley Stadium **(Home)**